

Contents

New Parish Councillor.....	1
Four Elms Hill	2
Newton Poppleford Parish Neighbourhood Plan.....	2
Changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	3
EDDC Full Council Meetings.....	5
Newton Poppleford Fun Day.....	5
Seaton Wetlands – Summer Holiday Club reminder	5
Are you in a private rental property?	6
More information on East Devon's Public Toilet Review will be coming soon.....	6
Staffing shortages and high demand are impacting EDDC frontline services.....	6
Do you know someone who would like to work for EDDC?	7
Manor Pavilion summer festival	8
£100k awarded to innovative nature project in East Devon	8
£350,000 allocated to improve public safety.....	9
Exmouth Skate Park.....	9
EDDC hopes to build affordable housing on a former football pitch in Axminster.....	9
Walking into Well-being and 7 types of rest.....	10
Nature and wellbeing: Big Butterfly Count.....	10
Complete a survey on Indoor Air Quality.....	11
Cranbrook Cycling Festival	11
Devon County Council notes	11
Tips for easing back into 'normality'	11
Lifting restrictions.....	11
South Western Ambulance service under pressure	12
Complaints and Concerns	13
Land at Tipton Bore Hole	13
Streetlight in Turner Close	13
Parking of camper vans.....	13
Venn Ottery stream and bin.....	13
Shortage of rental properties.....	14

New Parish Councillor

Welcome to Joy Morgan as the new parish councillor for Harpford. An election was called and Joy won this, uncontested. We look forward to working with her.

Four Elms Hill

I cannot believe I am still writing about Four Elms Hill. The parish council, residents, and DCC Cllr Bailey agree that Jacobs via EDDC have made a total mess of the work done between 5th and 6th July overnight. Instead of the agreed double white lines down the length of the hill, something everyone understands and on the whole complies with, a confusing mish-mash of arbitrary lines appear to have been painted on the hill whilst the existing worn out double white lines remain worn and in need of remedial work. The 'new' overtaking areas are pretty much at the site of the horrific accident in July 2017 in which there was a fatality. Before the 18th July 2019 East Devon HATOC (Highways and Traffic Orders Committee) meeting Cllr Burhop consulted with the police who warned against putting passing places on the hill as experience has shown that leaving the negotiation of the hill to drivers discretion has resulted in pretty much weekly accidents. Furthermore the road closure notices stated that the road would be closed for 4 nights and the work done, such as it was, took only two nights. One of my questions is are Jacobs paid a flat rate for the job or by the day for the work they do? If it's the former, it pays them to cut corners and withdraw early. This is completely unacceptable in my view. We firmly believe the new road markings make the hill more, not less, dangerous.

I felt so angry about the pointless and piecemeal work that has been done that I put in a Freedom of Information request asking for sight of all emails between Highways and Cllr Stuart Hughes, all reports, correspondence and documents relating to the decision such as who signed off the work, how the work was agreed, how it was consulted upon and so on. You can find my FOI request on the website called 'What do they know'. You can see that request here:

[Decision not to put double white lines on Four Elms Hill, Newton Poppleford - a Freedom of Information request to Devon County Council - WhatDoTheyKnow](#)

I also asked for a site meeting between all parties but Meg Booth, Chief Officer Highways Infrastructure, Development and Waste has contacted me to say she is trying to get the matter rectified rather than have the site meeting. Fortunately our complaints were also backed up by our former DCC councillor Christine Channon, who remembers well how long we have been requesting the double white lines on the hill, she is also a member of HATOC.

At the request of Cllr Bailey the item went back to HATOC on 23rd July 2021 for an explanation from DCC officers. Cllr Chris Burhop, Cllr Jess Bailey and I all spoke at the meeting. Most DCC cllrs present at the meeting agreed that the time DCC takes to complete these simple jobs is simply unacceptable. Cllr Scott was particularly outspoken, asking what was the point of HATOC if decisions made there were not carried out in a time fashion? There was general agreement around the room that the markings on the hill should be rectified asap. However DCC officers said a safety report will still need to be compiled and then further police consultations will take place. Yet more time wasting. Take care driving on the hill while the new road markings actively encourage overtaking over very short distances. There was another accident on the hill this past week.

Newton Poppleford Parish Neighbourhood Plan

As this has now been fully signed off, it is a legal requirement for the parish council to take it into account when looking at planning applications. The EDDC Neighbourhood Planning officer will come and speak to the parish council probably in September to explain how the plan works going forward and how it will dovetail with the new Local Plan.

Changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The NPPF is the government's overarching framework for planning. The East Devon Local Plan sits below this and the Neighbourhood Plan sits below this with more detail about each locality.

The full framework can be found here : [National Planning Policy Framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

The main changes are outlined below for information. Clearly as a Council we will need to have regard to these changes in our decision making on planning applications and production of the new Local Plan.

1. Measures to improve design quality, including a new requirement for councils to produce local design codes or guides

These include:

1. changes to the overarching social objective of the planning system (paragraph 8b) to include the fostering of "well-designed, beautiful and safe places". The old version had merely required "a well-designed and safe built environment".
2. introducing a new test that development should be well-designed (paragraph 133). This says that "development that is not well designed should be refused, especially where it fails to reflect local design policies and government guidance on design, taking into account any local design guidance and supplementary planning documents such as design guides and codes".
3. It goes on to say that "significant weight" should be given to "development which reflects local design policies and government guidance on design, taking into account any local design guidance and supplementary planning documents such as design guides and codes". Significant weight should also be given to "outstanding or innovative designs which promote high levels of sustainability, or help raise the standard of design more generally in an area", the new paragraph 133 says.
4. The new paragraph 128 states that in order to "provide maximum clarity about design expectations at an early stage", all local planning authorities "should prepare design guides or codes consistent with the principles set out in the National Design Guide and National Model Design Code, and which reflect local character and design preferences".

Linked to this the government have also published a National Model Design Code at: [National Model Design Code - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk) and established an office for place within MHCLG to ".....support communities to turn their visions of beautiful design into local standards that all new buildings will be required to meet".

2. The term "beautiful" has been added to the NPPF but should be regarded as a "statement of ambition" rather than a policy test

It says: "This should be read as a high-level statement of ambition rather than a policy test. The government would encourage local planning authorities, communities and developers to work together to decide what beautiful homes, buildings and places should look like in their area. This should be reflected in local plans, neighbourhood plans, design guides and codes, taking into account government guidance on design."

3. An emphasis on using trees in new developments

The updated NPPF introduces a new paragraph 131 stating that "planning policies and decisions should ensure that new streets are tree-lined, that opportunities are taken to incorporate trees elsewhere in developments (such as parks and community orchards), that appropriate measures are in place to secure the long-term maintenance of newly-planted trees, and that existing trees are

retained wherever possible". It goes on to say that applicants and local planning authorities "should work with local highways officers and tree officers to ensure that the right trees are planted in the right places".

4. Adjusting the presumption in favour of sustainable development for plan-makers.

The NPPF's presumption in favour of sustainable development for plan-makers (paragraph 11a) says that "all plans should promote a sustainable pattern of development that seeks to: meet the development needs of their area; align growth and infrastructure; improve the environment; mitigate climate change (including by making effective use of land in urban areas) and adapt to its effects".

5. New limits on the use of article 4 directions to restrict PD rights

The new paragraph 53 states that such directions, which remove PD rights in specific areas, where they relate to residential conversions, should only be used where it is "essential to avoid wholly unacceptable adverse impacts", for example the "loss of the essential core of a primary shopping area which would seriously undermine its vitality and viability". In "all cases", article 4 directions should be "based on robust evidence, and apply to the smallest geographical area possible".

6. Councils should 'retain and explain' statues rather than remove them

A completely new paragraph 198 states: "In considering any applications to remove or alter a historic statue, plaque, memorial or monument (whether listed or not), local planning authorities should have regard to the importance of their retention in situ and, where appropriate, of explaining their historic and social context rather than removal."

7. Encouraging faster delivery of further education colleges, hospitals and prisons

A new paragraph 96, which was not included in the January draft version, states: "To ensure faster delivery of other public service infrastructure such as further education colleges, hospitals and criminal justice accommodation, local planning authorities should also work proactively and positively with promoters, delivery partners and statutory bodies to plan for required facilities and resolve key planning issues before applications are submitted."

8. The United Nations climate change goals have been added.

Paragraph 7 in the section on "Achieving sustainable development" states that "the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development". It now adds: "At a similarly high level, members of the United Nations – including the United Kingdom – have agreed to pursue the 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development in the period to 2030. These address social progress, economic well-being and environmental protection."

9. Development plan policies for proposed large new settlements should have a 30-year timescale rather than the usual 15.

In paragraph 22 it states that strategic policies "should look ahead over a minimum 15 year period from adoption, to anticipate and respond to long-term requirements and opportunities, such as those arising from major improvements in infrastructure". This retains the wording from the old version, but a new sentence adds: "Where larger scale developments such as new settlements or significant extensions to existing villages and towns form part of the strategy for the area, policies should be set within a vision that looks further ahead (at least 30 years), to take into account the likely timescale for delivery."

10. Aspects of policy concerning planning and flood risk are clarified

The section on "planning and flood risk" now spells out that plans should manage any residual flood risk by using opportunities provided by new development and "improvements in green and other

infrastructure to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding (making as much use as possible of natural flood management techniques as part of an integrated approach to flood risk management)".

11. Tightened rules governing when isolated homes in the countryside can be acceptable

In paragraph 80 in the rural housing section, it sets out the circumstances in which isolated homes in the countryside can be acceptable. Previously, it said such homes would be acceptable if the design was "truly outstanding or innovative" - now the word "innovative" has been removed.

EDDC Full Council Meetings

The government's ruling on council meetings has meant an end to remote council meetings. The requirement is for councillors to be physically present in the same room to vote. All the different political groups (Greens, Independent, Labour, Lib Dems, Independents) agreed to a short term system that avoided EDDC having to hire Westpoint or a similar large venue for its July Full Council Meeting. There was just one spanner in the works; the Conservative group would not work to the agreed scheme and insisted that the outdated system of all councillors meeting together in one place should be upheld. This would mean hiring Westpoint or a similar venue for Full Council Meetings and of course you can add in all the separate car journeys and travel expense claims that go with this; you may have seen last month the saving in petrol expense claims this year is down by over £14,000 since we have had remote meetings at EDDC. It is the case that most of the Conservative group are in the more mature category and so will have been double vaccinated but they seem unable to empathise with younger councillors from other groups who are not yet doubly vaccinated or who are clinically vulnerable. At the time of writing this problem of how to manage the Full Council meetings for around 60 councillors plus officers, remains unresolved. This is a short term problem so it is disappointing that the conservative group are so wedded to government policy they cannot compromise for a short while to work safely with all the other political groups and officers at EDDC. In the meantime a number of other council have decided they are going to continue to work remotely. An Emergency meeting of all councillors has been called to take place at Westpoint on Monday 26th July 2021 to discuss and take a vote on ways that EDDC council can continue to meet remotely and reduce the risk of transmission of CV-19 without compromising the work of the council.

Newton Poppleford Fun Day

Please note the new date of Sunday 8th August 2021 from 12.00 – 5.00 pm at the Pavilion Playing Field. Help is required with stall or you can hire your own staff for the afternoon. More details are being circulated around the parish via a leaflet drop.

Seaton Wetlands – Summer Holiday Club reminder

There is an adventurous outdoor holiday club for 7-11 year olds, based at Seaton Wetlands. Led by experienced education ranger Penny, each day will be different: learn about wetlands wildlife, make natural crafts, use tools, cook on campfires and play. Morning fruit snack and campfire cooked afternoon snack provided.

- Week 1: 02/08-06/08; Week 2: 16/08-20/08
- Drop off 10am; pick up 4pm.
- £35 per child, per day. £150 for all 5 days of one week (discount of £25). No sibling discount.
- 12 children per day

Find more information on the [Summer Holiday Club](#) as well as events listings on our website.

To book your child's place call 01395 517557.

Are you in a private rental property?

Just as a reminder, if you are in a privately rented property that is sub standard, you can still apply to the private rentals team at EDDC for support to get things improved.

More information on East Devon's Public Toilet Review will be coming soon

I wrote last month about the public toilet review. A consultation on East Devon's public toilets is set to start at the end of July.

Keep an eye out for the latest news and information which will be posted via social media and on the [East Devon District Council website](#)

Staffing shortages and high demand are impacting EDDC frontline services

This is the latest update from Suez and the kerbside collection service which is still struggling with staffing shortages, more on this below.

It is likely that there may be a reduction in some kerbside collections in the near future, possibly reducing the cardboard collections and possibly reducing the collection of plastic and paper recycling to every two weeks until the staffing crisis is over.

It is a legal requirement that food recycling is collected every week so there will be no official reduction in that weekly collection.

At the same time it would be helpful if a public waste bin is full, residents take their rubbish back home for disposal. I find it baffling that some people are prepared to carry full plastic or glass drinks bottles, crisp and sweets out for the day but feel unable to take the empty packaging home again, for some reason believing it is the councils responsibility to dispose of their personal rubbish, not their own.

This is the latest update from the officer at EDDC who is responsible for overseeing the kerbside collection services provided by contractor SUEZ:

As you will no doubt be aware from media coverage and your own experiences the UK labour market has become extremely tight. This situation will continue as more and more industry sectors fully open as we move through the pandemic phases.

In particular the country is suffering from an acute shortage of LGV drivers, with the Freight Transport Associating reporting a shortage of 60,000 – 70,000 drivers nationwide.

This situation has impacted our SUEZ Team and we are running our operations with a constant shortfall in our workforce. The situation has been further heightened by the number of drivers and loaders we have each day self-isolating through test and trace. In recent days the heat has also taken it's toll on the depleted workforce, but thankfully sickness levels are low. We are doing all we can to look after the crews and still keep operational.

Our Supervisors are driving as much as we can spare them to take the pressure off of the crews and our Recycling Team are constantly out supporting and helping to deal with trouble spots and keeping communications as clear as we can.

We review our resources each evening and early morning and we are deploying as many crews and vehicles as we can to stick as close as possible to our scheduled collections. Inevitably, given the staff shortages, we have non-deployments of rounds and in-complete rounds. We are striving to keep these to a minimum each day and when they occur catch-up as soon as resources allow.

We ask for patience as we deal with a fast moving and constantly shifting situation.

To resolve the issue SUEZ are increasing recruitment efforts so we can fill our vacancies and stabilise the workforce. As we work so closely together as a combined team I have committed to assist SUEZ with staff recruitment.

You will see SUEZ branded recruitment material appear on EDDC communications channels as we try and reach as localised audience as we can and use alternative channels. Recruitment is not a quick fix as we are competing in a very tight labour pool. We are also making direct approaches to a number of organisations such as those that place Ex-Services personnel and retiring firefighters into employment.

We have produced some simple recruiting material for these purposes and to assist our SUEZ colleagues and I attach a copy of the poster version for your information.

If you have your own local communications channels please feel free to pass out this material so that we raise awareness of our vacancies as far and wide as we can. The telephone number will go direct to our Greendale depot so any caller will get direct contact with SUEZ to discuss job opportunities.

Do you know someone who would like to work for EDDC?

If you know anyone who would be interested in driving or working outside and helping to keep East Devon looking beautiful, please contact EDDC via email HR@eastdevon.gov.uk.

EDDC has vacancies for HGV drivers, street cleansing operatives and grounds maintenance.

The council is interested in anyone who is willing to muck in and work with us, irrespective of background or experience, get in touch if that is you!



Recycling and Waste contractors Suez are also looking for experienced LGV Drivers to join their team. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact **James Gatter** at **Suez** on **01395 234500**

Driver / Loader

Contract type - Permanent

Working Pattern - Full time

Location based - East Devon, Exeter

Hours per week - 41.25

Salary - £11.52 per hour + bonus

Manor Pavilion summer festival

East Devon District Council has announced that the Manor Pavilion has reopened in style with their hugely popular Sidmouth Summer Play Festival.

This year the season features six irresistible plays across twelve weeks this summer. Award-winning producer, Paul Taylor Mills, has put together a high quality programme of comedy, thrillers and farce, packed with laughs, twists and turns at every moment. The play season runs throughout the summer from 14 July to 18 September.

For the season finale, for the very first time, Paul Taylor Mills will be presenting the musical murder mystery: CLUE, based on the popular board game. This musical has evolved into a theatre sensation and is now an interactive entertainment for audiences of all ages. Is it going to be Miss Scarlett in the Drawing Room with the candlestick? The ending is decided by the audience and the musical murder mystery has 216 possible endings.

Summer Season at the Manor Pavilion: 14 July - 18 September, 2021. Tickets: £19, under 16's £8

Clue the musical: 20 – 25 September, 8pm. Tickets £20, under 16's £9

[Book tickets online](#) or call the box office on 01395 514413.

Manor Pavilion, Manor Road, Sidmouth EX10 8RP www.manorpavilion.com

Current Covid protocols are in place for all performances.

£100k awarded to innovative nature project in East Devon

Defra and the Environment Agency have awarded £100k to East Devon District Council to drive private investment and tackle climate change. As part of the Council's ambitious plans for the Clyst Valley Regional Park, a new 'Crystal Clear Clyst Bond' will help to address the climate emergency and investigate schemes to improve the environment in the Park. The £100k fund, plus an additional £10k from EDDC, will be used to set up an Environmental Impact Bond.

Cllr Geoff Jung, East Devon District Council's Portfolio Holder for Coast, Country and Environment, said:

Along with my fellow Councillors for Climate Action we have an objective to become a carbon neutral council by 2040. The EDDC Climate Change Strategy 2020 – 2025 sets out how we will reduce our carbon emissions year on year and mitigate against the threat that climate will place on our communities. The strategy is being developed following research by Exeter University to establish our current carbon footprint. Our strategy will encompass all our 10 Nature Reserves and open spaces by increasing natural habitat and increase tree planting to sequester carbon and allow nature to recover, and this funding will help in our exiting plans for the [Clyst Valley Regional Park](#).

Simon Bates, East Devon District Council's Green Infrastructure Project Manager said:

Watching the last episode of David Attenborough's 'Perfect Planet' motivated me to act on the climate and nature emergency happening now. In the Clyst Valley, our goal is to triple tree cover through planting and natural regeneration. For this to happen, farmers need to be persuaded that converting farmland to forest is financially more attractive than any alternative land use. We want to explore whether an Environmental Impact Bond is the solution. This would blend cash from publicly funded grant schemes and private finance from Woodland Carbon and Biodiversity Credits. With

major companies such as EON, EDF and many smaller environmental start-up businesses on our doorstep, we expect high demand for voluntary carbon credits in particular.

Subject to confirmation, the Environment Agency and Defra are planning to launch a further application round later this year.

£350,000 allocated to improve public safety

£350,000 has been allocated by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly to tie in with police force's wider summer policing operational preparation. The Evening and Night-Time Economy (ENTE) and ASB in public spaces were chosen as deliberate themes after they were highlighted as potential issues this summer following the anticipated Covid unlock on July 19. The money will fund more than 50 projects.

Exmouth Skate Park

An Exmouth skatepark will soon be ungraded to become an Olympic standard training facility thanks to a whopping £365,000 cash injection. East Devon District Council (EDDC) is now working in partnership with Exmouth Town Council as well as a local consultation group to improve Phear skate park for visitors and residents alike.

EDDC has contributed £240,000 towards the project and the town council has agreed to allocate £125,000 towards it, making sure all the requests made by the consultation group, (made up of 30 local skatepark users) are met. The construction phase is expected to take approximately 21 weeks to complete and are expected to be completed by the end of October.

The park will accommodate people of all ages and abilities. It allows newcomers to learn and develop as well as having extremely technical sections that will engage and test competent riders. There really is something for everyone!

EDDC hopes to build affordable housing on a former football pitch in Axminster

Plans to build much-needed affordable housing (actually the focus from Cabinet members was that they would like to see social/council housing) on a former football pitch in Axminster are one step closer to being made a reality. Some years ago the land at Millwey Rise was returned to East Devon District Council (EDDC) and is now currently designated as land for council housing.

At the authority's Cabinet meeting on Wednesday, 14 July 2021, councillors approved a report recommending the land is reserved for much needed social and **truly affordable** housing development and a replacement community centre undertaken by the council. Councillors felt passionately that, in view of the desperate shortage of affordable housing in the district, they wanted to set the wheels in motion for the site to be used for its original intended purpose, at the earliest opportunity.

There is currently a well-used and valued community centre, owned and managed by EDDC and allotments, on the site. This means any future use of the site will need to factor in considerations for the future provision of these essential community facilities and balance the need for housing against competing demands. The Cabinet were clear that they wanted to optimise social housing and incorporate other community uses, as appropriate including retaining the existing amenities wherever possible. It will be a great step forward if instead of land being developed by a private developer with the usual highly unaffordable 'affordable' housing element, the council can build its

own council houses. Not only do these provide a very useful stepping stone for those on a low income but also do bring in a good revenue for the council with an asset that increases in value over time.

Walking into Well-being and 7 types of rest

See the picture opposite for details of walking into well-being organised by local GP practises. You must be registered at either Coleridge medical Centre, The Beacon Centre, Sidmouth or the Honiton surgery.

7 types of rest - If you've ever had the experience of waking up after a full eight hours feeling just as exhausted as you were when your head hit the pillow, you'll know that sleep doesn't always make you feel fully rested. While sleep is a great way to get physical rest, it isn't the only type of rest we need.



Did you know that there are different types of rest we need to feel our best— our happiest and most productive. The different types of rest include:

1. Physical rest is about resting your body
2. Mental rest is about giving your brain a break
3. Emotional rest is about being authentic and honest with your feelings
4. Social rest is about pursuing positive, energizing, and supportive social connections, or simply taking a break from socialization altogether
5. Sensory rest is about giving your senses a break
6. Creative rest is about exposing yourself to artistic, nature-based, and innovative environments, without feeling the need to produce a creation—and feeling the sense of inspiration that comes along with them
7. Spiritual rest is about connecting with something larger than yourself.

This link explains how to determine what type of rest you need, and how to actually get that rest: [How To Leverage The 7 Types Of Rest To Be Your Happiest, Most Productive Self \(trello.com\)](https://www.trello.com). This information has been circulated by the health and well-being officer at EDDC.

Nature and wellbeing: Big Butterfly Count

Help take nature's pulse by joining the annual summer Big Butterfly Count. The [Butterfly Conservation's Big Butterfly Count](#) is a UK-wide survey aimed at helping to assess the health of our environment by counting the number and type of butterflies seen.

What to do: it's easy! Any time until Sunday 8 August choose a place to spot butterflies and moths. Watch for 15 minutes. Then record which species you see. Add your counts [here](#) on the website or via the app and look at an interactive map to see how your data is contributing to conservation science and research.

Details and a *free* butterfly identification chart available from [Butterfly Conservation](#).

Writer Patrick Barkham advises “the trick with butterfly hunting is not to follow too closely. Keep your distance, let them settle and then move in more slowly, treading more softly than you imagine you need to.”

And if you get really into butterflies, try reading Patrick’s book “The Butterfly Isles” – a very engaging account of his efforts to see all 59 species of butterfly found in Britain over one summer. Perfect summer reading for armchair butterfly watching!

Complete a survey on Indoor Air Quality

Can you help Sandy Jones who works for East Devon District Council and is a PhD student at the University of Plymouth investigate the association of construction, indoor air quality and health.

The University of Plymouth, in partnership with East Devon District Council is conducting research about the indoor air quality of our homes and how it could affect our health. Indoor air pollution is dust, dirt or gases in the air inside a building such as your home or workplace that harms us if we breathe it in. The quality of the air we breathe indoors is affected by many things, such as how we heat our homes, how we cook, poor ventilation, damp, presence of chemicals in cleaning and personal care products and the existence of some specific building materials.

We would welcome your participation by answering this survey. The information you supply will form part of a larger project to understand air quality in homes. It will also help shape the Council’s future housing policies.

Please feel free to forward this invitation to your family and friends.

[Complete the Survey](#)

Cranbrook Cycling Festival

15 August, 10am-2pm, at the Younghayes Centre

Come along and learn about cycling. There will be lots to see and do for all the family, including Whizz Kids Little Wheels Ride Circuit. If you’re aged 16+ you can sign up for a guided free electric bike ride – there are even 2 bikes which can carry 2 toddlers.

Devon County Council notes

[Tips for easing back into 'normality'](#).

Lockdown has been difficult for many of us, for lots of different reasons. In full lockdown things might have felt more certain or predictable, as the rules were clearer. But now that lockdown restrictions are easing things might feel less clear, and there may be new challenges. Here is the link:

[Coronavirus - managing feelings about lockdown easing | Mind, the mental health charity - help for mental health problems](#)

Lifting restrictions

Most legal restrictions to control COVID-19 have been lifted at step 4. This means that:

- You do not need to stay 2 metres apart from people you do not live with. There are also no limits on the number of people you can meet.
- However, in order to minimise risk at a time of high prevalence, you should limit the close contact you have with those you do not usually live with, and increase close contact gradually. This includes minimising the number, proximity and duration of social contacts.
- You should meet outdoors where possible and let fresh air into homes or other enclosed spaces.
- The Government is no longer instructing people to work from home if they can. However, the Government expects and recommends a gradual return over the summer.
- The requirement to wear face coverings in law has been lifted. However, the Government expects and recommends that people wear face coverings in crowded areas such as public transport.
- There are no longer limits on the number of people who can attend weddings, civil partnerships, funerals and other life events (including receptions and celebrations). There is no requirement for table service at life events, or restrictions on singing or dancing. You should follow guidance for [weddings](#) and [funerals](#) to reduce risk and protect yourself and others.
- There are no longer restrictions on group sizes for attending communal worship.
- COVID-19 has not gone away, so it's important to remember the actions you can take to keep yourself and others safe. Everybody needs to continue to act carefully and remain cautious.
-

Although most legal restrictions have been lifted at step 4, and many people have been vaccinated, it is still possible to catch and spread COVID-19, even if you are fully vaccinated, and we are still in the third wave of this pandemic in the UK.

Following this guidance will help you stay safe and protect others by controlling the spread. Every action to help reduce the spread will reduce any further resurgence of the virus in the coming months.

South Western Ambulance service under pressure

South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SWASFT) is urging people to use its service sensibly – after experiencing its busiest week on record for the second time so far this month. SWASFT responded to 23,088 incidents during the seven days up until Sunday, which is equivalent to one incident every 26 seconds.

Ahead of what is expected to be a very busy school summer holiday period in the South West, SWASFT says it must continue to prioritise speaking to and treating the most seriously injured and unwell patients.

To allow it to prioritise patients effectively, the Trust is asking everyone who uses its service to do so sensibly. People should only to call [999](#) in a genuine, life-threatening emergency, for example:

- Chest pain / breathing difficulties / heart attack
- Stroke
- Severe bleeding
- Severe allergic reactions
- Severe burns or scalds
- Serious head injuries
- Major trauma such as a road traffic accident or a fall from height.

They should not ring back to ask for an estimated arrival time, and should only call back if the patient's condition worsens or they no longer need an ambulance. The Trust is also encouraging people to look after themselves and others during this period of very warm and dry [weather](#). They are advised to drink plenty of water, limit their exposure to direct sunlight, and check on those who are vulnerable. People going out on daytrips or visiting the region are asked to bring their regular medication, as well as essentials such as sunscreen, antiseptic remedies and paracetamol.

Complaints and Concerns

Land at Tipton Bore Hole

You may remember this site, opposite the Scouts field between Harpford and Tipton, was being used to store old cars and store and burn rubbish without a licence. The owner was given until the end of June to clear the site before legal action was taken. The site has been pretty much cleared now, though there is still evidence of waste plastic etc around the site which hopefully will continue to be tidied up. Thanks to all residents for keeping a keen eye on this site.

Streetlight in Turner Close

Despite EDDC now agreeing it is their responsibility to fix the lights that haven't been working for months, they have still not been repaired. Cllr Burhop continues to chase this, the latest being that EDDC are getting quotes for new lights. This is the latest from the EDDC officer overseeing this work.

As previously advised, this is being managed by our Contract Manager. We have our proposal, which is to install 2 x new Raise & Lower columns here on the footpath and subsequently get a quote from wpd to service them.

Our Contract Manager is arranging a visit on site to discuss the works with SSE enterprise. The dates are yet to be confirmed.

Deep sigh!

Parking of camper vans

Complaints again about camper vans being parked in Otter Reach. Unfortunately if the vehicle is taxed and insured, they are permitted to park on the public highway. There is a particularly large van there at the moment and residents complain it makes the highway single traffic only. If it became apparent that the camper van is being lived in on a particular road, the local authority may choose to take action. There is also a history of campervan theft from this road as it is away from housing so easy pickings for those intent on theft.

Venn Ottery stream and bin.

Residents have complained directly to the land owner about the stream at Lynthead not being cleared regularly. This is now being addressed. There are long standing problems about the waste bin not being emptied in the same area but passers-by are continuing to leave their rubbish behind on the ground around the bin. It would be helpful, where a bin is clearly full, for walkers to take their rubbish home with them.

Shortage of rental properties

A local family is struggling to find a 3 bedroom property for rent in the private sector with access to local primary schools. The rental market is extremely difficult at the moment, with properties no sooner on the market than they are snapped up. If you know of any properties that might be suitable for a family (minimum 3 bedrooms) coming up for rent in our parish in the near future please do contact me.

With grateful thanks as always to residents for helping to raise local issues so they can be addressed.

Val Ranger , Ward Councillor, Newton Poppleford and Harpford
Tel 07475 201 340 or email vranger@btinternet.com..